



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Prince William Forest Park

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Prince William Forest Park News Release

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Park Goes ‘to the Dogs’ for National Parks Week & Jr. Ranger Day

TRIANGLE, VA - Paws in the Park 2009 will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Prince William Forest Park, a unit of the National Park Service located 35 miles south of Washington, D.C. at I-95 exit 150. This event welcomes dog-owners and dog-lovers to Prince William Forest Park for National Parks Week (Apr. 18 - 26) with fun, family-friendly activities that highlight the importance of keeping dogs on leashes in national parks.

Children can celebrate National Parks Week and Junior Ranger Day at Paws in the Park by completing our Junior “Bark” Ranger activity booklet (available free of charge). Those who successfully complete the booklet will be awarded a Prince William Forest Park Junior Ranger Badge, certificate, and patch. Other event highlights include: military, police, and search and rescue dogs; agility and obedience demonstrations; informational displays; guest appearances; and a ‘faux’ dog show. This year, for one day only, your four-legged friends can mingle and romp in a designated play area to demonstrate the importance of allowing your dogs off leash in *only designated areas*.

Working dog demonstrations will be conducted by National Park Service Park Ranger Martin Gallery and his bomb dog, Samson, and search and rescue dogs from Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association, among others. Be sure to enter your canine companion in our “Faux” Dog Show, with fun categories such as Best Drooler, Best Wagger, and Pet/Owner Lookalike. Rounding out the event will be several information booths, including numerous breed rescue groups, Dogs Deserve Better, and the Virginia Military Preservation Association’s ‘Dogs of War’ display.

Guest appearances include McGruff - the crime prevention dog, and Laurie Williams and her Maltese, Andrew, the runner-up on CBS's 'Greatest American Dog.' Laurie and her staff at Pup 'N Iron Canine Fitness and Learning Center in Fredericksburg, VA, will conduct a "teach your dog a trick" workshop and agility demonstrations. Certified dog trainer Robin Bennett, from Woodbridge's All About Dogs, will give leash walking workshops at the pavilion. Representatives from Canine Companions for Independence will speak about the highly-trained assistance dogs they provide to disabled adult and children.

This event is co-sponsored by Potomac Tails magazine and the Friends of Prince William Forest Park. For more information, visit our website at www.nps.gov/prwi or call the visitor center at 703-221-7181 daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle entrance fee to the park, but no additional fee for the event.



Laurie & Andrew from CBS's
Greatest American Dog



Park Ranger, Martin & Bomb
Dog, Samson



McGruff, the Crime Prevention Dog



Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association